



Runge Conservation Nature Center

# Habitat Happenings

July and August 2004

**D**arkness has fallen. The moon begins its nightly climb into the sky and starts to work its magic. For some, it is the signal to crawl under the bedcovers or into a sleeping bag, but for many, it is the sign to rise and shine. Bats swoop, snakes slither, fireflies flicker, and owls hunt, as the frogs' calls and insects' songs lull us into a dreamland. However, drifting off to sleep is not easy when you are wondering what's going on in that mysterious, dark world outside your window or tent. What are these animals doing up at night and what is making them so busy now?

Many creatures begin to move around in the shadows and are seldom seen by people during the day because they are at rest or asleep in the daytime. These animals are called nocturnal. This means that they hunt or are most active at night. Animals such as bats, moths, raccoons, and cats are all nocturnal. How many nocturnal animals can you think of? Did you know that an animal that hunts or is most active during the day is called diurnal?

Because various small mammals and insects work or eat at night, their predators must also be active at night to catch them. These nocturnal predators use specialized tools and have characteristics to help them during their nightly routine. For example, owls have larger eyes to increase their night vision and ears towards the front of their face to hone in on their prey. Bats send out signals that bounce off of objects to help them navigate the nighttime sky, avoiding trees and homes while catching thousands of insects each night.

Perhaps tonight is your night to accept the rising moon's invitation to go out and enjoy the wonders and mysteries of nature's nightlife. Take a flashlight into your backyard and scan the edge with it to spot the eyes of the animals outside. Keep track of the different colors of eye shine that you see to let you know how many nocturnal animals are using your backyard as their habitat. Be a nature detective to find the answers to what's going on, who is out there, and how many animals are up while you are snug in bed.

—Stephanie Gipson, Naturalist



## Nature's Night Life



# Volunteer News



## Two Runge Volunteers Achieve Remarkable Milestone

Recently, two Runge Volunteers did what no other Runge Volunteer has done. Nadine Marshall, left, and Carolyn Brunner, right, have reached the 5,000-hour milestone of service hours donated to the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Nadine joined the MDC Volunteer Program in 1995, while Carolyn was a member of the Volunteer Class of 1992, a year before the nature center actually opened. In 1998, Nadine and Carolyn, along with fellow volunteer Golda Trower, developed one of the most popular programs the nature center has ever offered. The Wildlifers Program blends nature learning with the art and craft of quilt making. Now in its seventh year, this unique program meets monthly and has 140 participants.

Both Nadine and Carolyn have inspired Runge Nature Center staff, volunteers, and visitors alike with their willingness to share their time, energy, and love of nature with others. Thank you, Nadine and Carolyn, for your remarkable dedication.

## Exhibits

### July

Life-long Missourian Chip Ulm will be showcasing his wonderful digital photographs of nature and wildlife.

### August

Josh Rathert will display his digital photographs of intimate scenes from nature that few people take the time to witness. His photography illustrates strong elements of design and composition.

## Nature Shop News

July/August featured item



**20%  
off**

Heritage card discount does not apply.

### **Lewis & Clark and Missouri 1804**

2-tape set or DVD

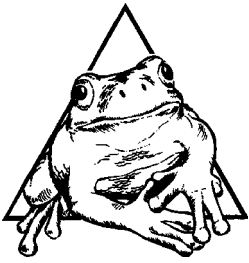
*Lewis & Clark and Missouri 1804* explores the Missouri River not only as it is, but as it was 200 years ago. MDC television producer, Kipp Woods, retraces the journey of Lewis and Clark, and compares the Missouri of that era to the one we know today.

Discounted price:

DVD—**\$12.75** plus tax

VHS—**\$8.50** plus tax

**Runge Conservation Nature Center** is located in western Jefferson City. From U.S. 50, exit on Highway 179. Travel north for 1/4 mile to the Nature Center entrance on the left. The Nature Center is open Monday through Saturday 8:00AM to 5:00PM and Noon to 5:00PM on Sundays. Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. No admission fee. 573/526-5544 FAX: 573/526-4496 [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/runge](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/runge)



# Conservation Kids' Club

Welcome to Conservation Kids' Club, a fun club created for kids 6 through 13 years old who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife. Come to our July meeting and we'll sign you up.

## **Etch & Sketch - Nature Journaling for Kids**

**Tuesday, July 20**

**6:00-7:30PM** Pollywogs (Ages 6 through 8) and Bullfrogs (Ages 9 through 13) combine for this event.



Capture the mysteries of nature between the pages of your very own journal. We will scribble, draw, sketch, jot, write, color, and compose. No experience necessary, just a desire to explore your world! Journals and drawing pencils are provided.

**Journaling...the old fashioned way!**  
Writing was never an easy task for the Lewis & Clark explorers. They had to carefully mix water and powdered ink to get an ink supply. They used a quill to write. A quill is a tip of a feather, often from a goose. It had to be dipped into ink after every second or third word. If they wrote at night, they worked by lantern light.



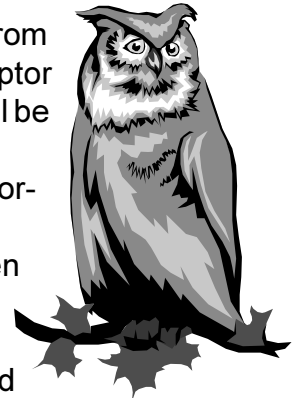
*Jacob Stoehr  
Conservation Kids'  
Club member*

## **Ooooh Owls!**

**Tuesday, August 17**

**6:00-7:00PM** Pollywogs (Ages 6 through 8) and Bullfrogs (Ages 9 through 13) combine for this event.

Live owls join us this evening from the University of Missouri's Raptor Rehabilitation Center. This will be a great opportunity to view our native owls and see their extraordinary night-hunter features—sharp talons, large eyes, hidden ears and silent wings. Bring along your cameras for some unique photo opportunities, and let's learn more about these nocturnal birds! We'll make an awesome owl craft and eat some "owl"fully yummy snacks too.



## **Hey Parents!**

*While big brother/sister attends Conservation Kids' Club, your preschooler (3 through 5 years of age) can be involved in a program at the same time. A preschool program will be available for siblings of Conservation Kids' Club members on Tuesday, July 20, 6:00-7:00PM and August 17, 6:00-7:00PM. There are no reservations required.*

## **Did you know?**

- ◆ An owl's huge eyes gather a great deal of light, thus providing excellent night vision. In fact, a great horned owl's eyes are nearly as large as a person's.
- ◆ To aid in nighttime hunting, owls are gifted with silent flight.





# JULY Events at Runge

## REGISTRATION

Call Runge Conservation Nature Center **on or after July 1<sup>st</sup>** to register for these programs (573/526-5544.) If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.

8 Thursday

### Wildlife Badge

Time: 6:00-7:30PM  
Ages: Junior Brownies  
Reservations required.

11 Sunday

### Otterly Amazing

Time: 2:00-3:00PM  
Ages: All  
Back by popular demand! Join Glenn Chambers and his live river otter for a fascinating program that explains otter life history and the successful restoration project. Reservations required.

13 Tuesday

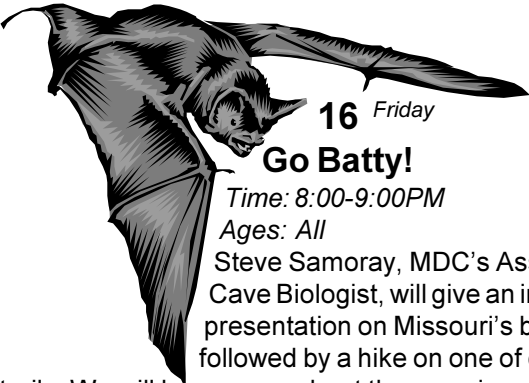
### Bird Basics

Time: 6:00-7:00PM  
Ages: All  
What birds do we see at Runge? What do they eat? What can we do for them? Come find out! Reservations required.

15 Thursday

### Wildlifers: Nature Quilt Block

Time: 10:00-11:30AM, 1:00-2:30PM, 3:30-5:00PM, and 6:00-7:30PM  
Ages: 50 years and older  
What bird is called the “wild canary?” Come to this meeting and learn about the American goldfinch. Reservations required.



16 Friday

### Go Batty!

Time: 8:00-9:00PM  
Ages: All  
Steve Samoray, MDC’s Assistant Cave Biologist, will give an indoor presentation on Missouri’s bats

followed by a hike on one of our trails. We will learn more about these curious night time creatures. Reservations required.

17 Saturday

### River Record: Noting Nature with the Corps of Discovery

Time: 10:00-11:00AM  
Ages: All (Children accompanied by adult)  
Join us for a closer look at the Missouri River as our journaling series “proceeds on.” Like the Corps of Discovery, our notes about nature will center on observations of the river. Bring something to sit on and your nature notebook. Meet us at the Noren Access near the northwest foot of Jefferson City’s twin bridges for sketching and writing about the Missouri River. Reservations required.

### We’re hungry and we don’t mind you watchin’!

Stop by the nature center on the following days and watch the critters being fed.

**July 13 & 27, Tuesday**






~ Snakes - 11:30AM

**July 9 & 23, Friday**

~ Fish - 10:30AM & 11:00AM

~ Turtles - 10:45AM

**Trail rating system** for the trails advertised for the Runge Hiking Club.

-  -Easiest trail—flat terrain with no obstructions (like the Katy Trail)
-  -Slight inclines and/or few obstructions (gravel, few rocks)
-  -Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks or roots
-  -Occasional significant inclines and/or rocks or roots
-  -Most difficult—significant inclines, obstructions, and/or loose rocks

17 Saturday

### Runge Hiking Club

Time: 8:00AM-5:30PM  
Ages: 18 years and older  
See splendid sights! Burn some calories! Learn about our wondrous state! Come join novice and experienced day hikers alike as we strap on our boots and go! Each month, we’ll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri’s choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails. A volunteer naturalist will lead the hikes and point out highlights as we go.

This month, we’ll travel to **Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area and Nature Center** in Blue Springs. We’ll hike the **Hickory Grove Trail** (3.3 miles.), **Bethany Falls Trail** (1.0 miles), **Tree Trail** (.75 miles), and the **Discovery Trail** (.5 miles.) Total miles are 5.55, and the trails range from easy to moderate difficulty. Although the nature center exhibits will be under construction, the air-conditioned building will be open and available. Bring your lunch, water, and hiking boots or comfortable shoes. Also, come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

18 Sunday

### Puppet Show: Searching for Moonbows

Time: 1:00-2:00PM  
Ages: All  
Nature’s night life awakens after the sun has set. Darkness hides things from Runge’s night puppets. Skunk, Opossum, and Firefly hear Bat sounding off about moonbows. What are moonbows? Are they real? Come enjoy these creatures of the night searching for moonbows. Reservations are not required.

22 Thursday

### Attracting Butterflies

Time: 6:30-8:30PM  
Ages: 18 years and older  
Alan Branhagen, Horticulture Director for Powell Gardens and author of *The Gardener’s Butterfly Book*, discuss Missouri’s butterfly species and the native plants that support them. Program attendees will receive a free, full-color butterfly poster. Reservations required.

30 Friday

### Young Adults: Night Hike

Time: 8:30-9:30PM  
Ages: 12-14 years old  
Take a trip through the darkness...no flashlights just moonlight to guide you. Hike the nature center trails, listen for nocturnal animals, and collect night flying insects. Explore Runge in the dark! Wear sturdy shoes and bring a water bottle. Reservations required.

## For the Little Ones

### Babes In The Woods

Birth through 2 years of age

#### A Walk in the Woods

As the summer progresses, we will continue to use all of our senses to explore the outdoors. Reservations required.

Saturday, July 10 – 10:00AM

Tuesday, July 13 – 10:00AM

Friday, July 23 – 11:00AM

### Little Acorns

3 through 6 years of age

#### Good Day, Good Night!

Let’s pretend it is nighttime! Wear your jammies to the nature center to get into the mood. We will find out who is sleeping outdoors when we are awake! Reservations required.

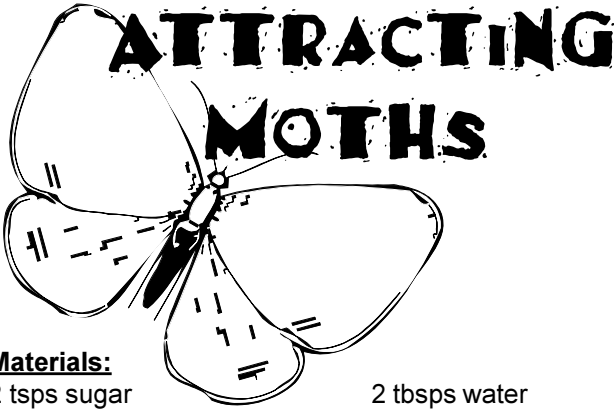
Wednesday, July 7 – 2:00PM

Friday, July 16 – 10:00AM

Thursday, July 22 – 10:00AM

Tuesday, July 27 – 10:00AM

Saturday, July 31 – 10:00AM



#### Materials:

2 tpsps sugar  
small, shallow plate  
outdoor light

2 tbsps water  
shoe box  
piece of screen

#### Procedure:

1. After dark, mix the sugar with the tap water on the plate.
2. Put the plate inside the shoebox.
3. Place the open box under the outdoor light.
4. Watch for moths to land in the box.
5. Close the moths in by placing the screen over the box.
6. Without letting the moths out, remove the plate of sugared water.
7. Watch to see whether more moths come and land on the screen. What attracted these moths?
8. After you have completed the activity, remove the screen and let the moths fly away.

#### Explanation:

Moths usually fly in the evening or night. They are attracted to light and to sweet things. They first fly to the light, then stay for the sugar water. Female moths give off a substance known as pheromones to attract mates. Male moths can smell the substance from as far as several miles away and will come to the source. This is why the box of moths attracted more moths, even without the sugar water.

To go in the dark with a light is to know the light. To know dark, go dark. Go without sight and know that dark too blooms and sings, and is traveled by dark feet and dark wings.

-Wendel Berry

**The Runge Reading Guild is on summer break.** The group will meet next on September 25. Watch for your September/October issue of *Habitat Happenings* for more information.



# August Events at Runge

## REGISTRATION

Call Runge Conservation Nature Center **on or after July 1<sup>st</sup>** to register for these programs (573/526-5544.) If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.

### Scout Packs Available

**NEW! Naturalist and Forester Packs!** Leaders, you can now check out the Naturalist/Forester pack at Runge. This pack contains activities that meet requirements of both the Naturalist and Forester badges. Make your reservation with Andrea today by calling 573/522-4115 ext 3401.

**Other packs available:**

- ◀Cub Scout Achievement #5 - *Sharing Your World With Wildlife*,
- ◀Wolf Cub Elective #13 - *Birds*
- ◀Brownie Try-It - *Animals*
- ◀Brownie Try-It - *Plants*

**1** *Sunday*

#### Flower Drying

*Time: 2:00-3:00PM*

*Ages: 18 years and older*

Come in to the cool indoors and learn about different techniques for flower drying. Bring your own 5 x 7" picture frame and make your own pressed flower picture. Reservations required.

**5** *Thursday*

#### Hunter Education Course

*Time: 6:00-9:00PM*

*Ages: 11 years and older*

Learn how to hunt safely and responsibly. Ten hours of instruction are required and you must be at least eleven years of age to participate. Students sixteen years of age and under must bring proof of age. Course continues on **Friday, August 6, 6:00-10:00PM**, and concludes on **Saturday, August 7, 8:00AM-Noon**. Reservations required.

**6** *Friday*

#### Nighty Night at the Nature Center

*Time: 7:00PM Friday-8:00AM Saturday, August 7*

*Ages: 8 years and older*

Bring your sleeping bag and spend the night at the nature center! Take a special "behind the scenes" tour, head out on the trails for an adventurous night hike and spy on the nighttime critters that visit our feeders. We'll gather around for storytelling, snack, and finally a snooze.

This event requires a signed Parental Permission form which will be sent to you when you make a reservation. One parent may accompany each child. Please no scout groups. Reservations required.

**11** *Wednesday*

#### Earth Connections Badge

*Time: 6:00-7:30PM*

*Ages: Junior Brownies*

Reservations required.

**12** *Thursday*

#### Earth Connections Badge

*Time: 6:00-7:30PM*

*Ages: Junior Brownies*

Reservations required.

### We're hungry and we don't mind you watchin'!

Stop by the nature center on the following days and watch the critters being fed.

**August 10 & 24, Tuesday**

~ Snakes - 11:30AM

**August 6 & 20, Friday**

~ Fish - 10:30AM & 11:00AM

~ Turtles - 10:45AM

### Habitat Happenings

**13** *Friday*

#### Young Adults: Night Hike

*Time: 8:30-9:30PM*

*Ages: 15-18 years old*

Take a trip through the darkness...no flashlights, just moonlight to guide you. Hike the nature center trails, listen for nocturnal animals, and collect night flying insects. Explore Runge in the dark! Wear sturdy shoes and bring a water bottle. Reservations required.

**14** *Saturday*

#### Puppet Show: Searching for Moonbows

*Time: 1:00-2:00PM*

*Ages: All*

Nature's night life awakens after the sun has set. Darkness hides things from Runge's night puppets. Skunk, Opossum, and Firefly hear Bat sounding off about moonbows. What are moonbows? Are they real? Come enjoy these creatures of the night searching for moonbows. Reservations are not required.

**15** *Sunday*

#### River Record: Noting Nature with the Corps of Discovery

*Time: 10:00-11:00AM*

*Ages: All (Children accompanied by adult)*

Join us for a closer look at the Missouri River as our journaling series "proceeds on." Like the Corps of Discovery, our notes about nature will center on observations of the river. Bring something to sit on and your nature notebook. Meet us at the Noren Access near the northwest foot of Jefferson City's twin bridges for sketching and writing about the Missouri River. Reservations required.

**17** *Tuesday*

#### Raptors at Runge

*Time: 7:00-8:00PM*

*Ages: All*

Live owls join us this evening from the University of Missouri's Raptor Rehabilitation Center. This will be a great opportunity to view our native owls and see their extraordinary night-hunter features—sharp talons, large eyes, hidden ears and silent wings. Bring along your cameras for some unique photo opportunities, and let's learn more about these nocturnal birds! Reservations required.

**19** *Thursday*

#### Wildlifers: Nature Quilt Block

*Time: 10:00-11:30AM, 1:00-2:30PM,*

*3:30-5:00PM, and 6:00-7:30PM*

*Ages: 50 and older*

"Who-who-who" will it be when owls are discussed at the August meeting of Wildlifers? Reservations required.



**19** *Thursday*

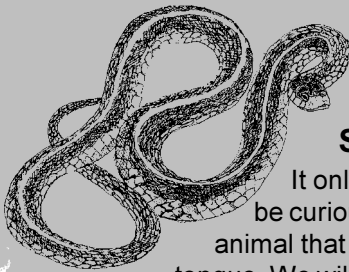
#### The Fiddling Frenchman

*Time: 7:00-8:00PM*

*Ages: 8 years and older*

Pierre Cruzatte was another of the unique, intrepid explorers that joined the Lewis & Clark expedition. Known as the "One-Eyed" fiddler, Cruzatte was skilled both as a boatman and as a musician. MDC Education Consultant and fiddler, Michael Fraser will perform traditional tunes on the fiddle as he portrays Cruzatte during this sure-to-be-fascinating program. Reservations required.

## For the Little ones



#### Snake Sense

It only makes sense to be curious about an animal that "smells" with its tongue. We will investigate the five senses of the snake this month. Ssssee you there! Reservations required.

#### Babes In The Woods

*Birth through 2 years of age*

Saturday, August 14 – 10:00AM

Thursday, August 19 – 11:00AM

Tuesday, August 31 – 11:00AM

#### Little Acorns

*3 through 6 years of age*

Tuesday, August 10 – 10:00AM

Wednesday, August 18 – 2:00PM

Friday, August 20 – 10:00AM

Saturday, August 21 – 10:00AM



Tuesday, August 31 – 9:00AM

**21** *Saturday*

#### Runge Hiking Club

*Time: 8:00AM-4:30PM*

*Ages: 18 years and older*

There's a lot to see at 17,203-acre Lake of the Ozarks State Park, Missouri's largest. Join us as we visit the southern, less-used corner of the park and explore some of its gems. We'll begin with a naturalist-led tour on an underground hike at Ozark Caverns (.5 mile .) After lunch, we'll hike through a savanna, glade, fen, and over two swinging bridges, all on the Coakley Hollow Trail (1 mile .) Bring your lunch, water, \$3.00 per person and a jacket for the cave tour, and wear hiking boots or comfortable shoes. Come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

**21** *Saturday*

#### Creek Adventure

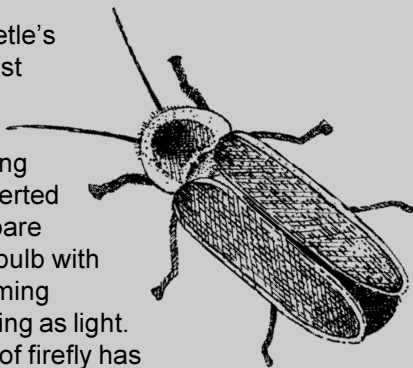
*Time: 2:00PM-3:00PM*

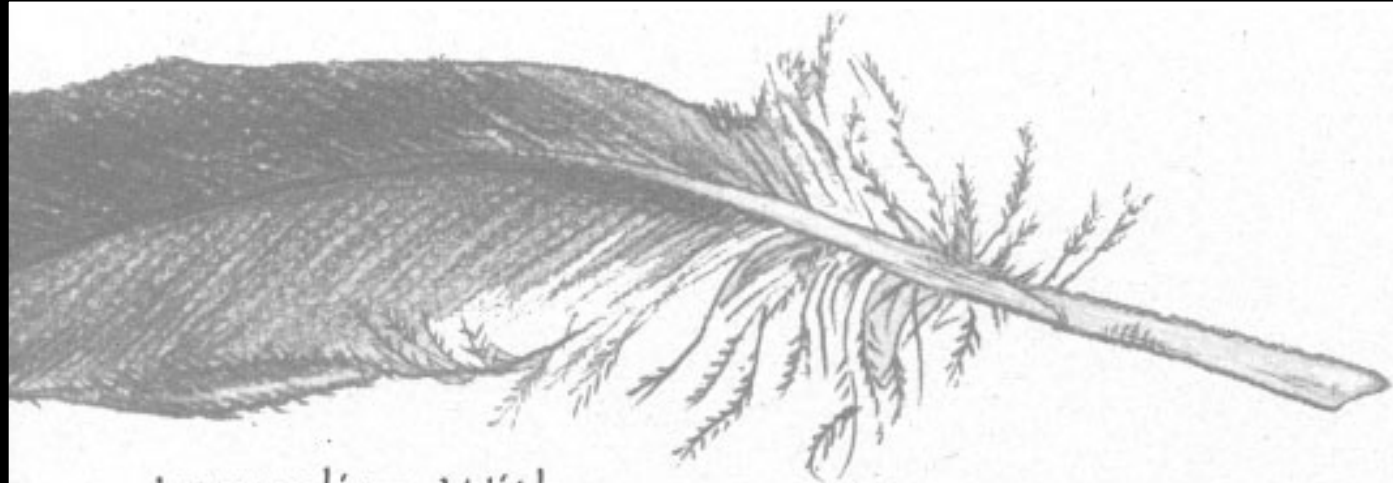
*Ages: All*

Join us as we adventure down to the creek on Moss Rock Trace trail. We'll explore in the creek and check out the plants and animals that live there. Wear shoes that you don't mind getting dirty. Reservations required.

## Did you know?

A lightning beetle's light is the most efficient known...over 95% of incoming energy is converted to light. Compare that to a light bulb with 5-15% of incoming energy emerging as light. Each species of firefly has its own flash pattern, preferred time of night and favorite habitat.





Journaling With  
*Lewis & Clark*  
A Discovery of Outdoor Missouri

*In the spirit of Lewis & Clark, we invite you to set out on  
your own expedition of Missouri. Stop by the Nature Center  
to pick up your journal which will guide you along the way.*

**Habitat Happenings**

Runge Conservation Nature Center  
P.O. Box 180  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

PRSRSTD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Jefferson City Missouri  
Permit No. 274